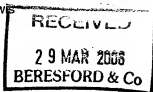




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| Reference 2896230 | Application No./Patent No. 03257614.2 - 2217 |
| Applicant/Proprietor CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA | |

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report (under R. 44 or R. 45 EPC) for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- ☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☒ Abstract ☒ Title
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract : 2

Refund of search fee

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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| Entered By: | Q |
| Due: | 8 / 4 / 06 |
| Bring Up: | 7 / 4 / 06 |
| Checked By: | SM |



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| Place of search The Hague | | Date of completion of the search 16 March 2006 | Examiner Soulaire, D |
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| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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